

MAY 18 2006

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Date: Thursday, 18 May 2006 **Time:** 1730
From: Howard Kaiser, Esq.
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 Art Unit 3662
 U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
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Total Number of Pages Sent (Including This Page): 15

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I hereby certify that this cover sheet and the accompanying *Response to Restriction Requirement* and the accompanying *Preliminary Amendment* are being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (Fax No. 571-273-8300) on Thursday, May 18, 2006.

Howard Kaiser

Howard Kaiser

In re Patent Application of:	:	Art Unit: 3662
Keith E. Sommer and	:	
Henry P. Stottmeister	:	
	:	
Serial No.: 10/829,615	:	Examiner: Ian J. Lobo
Filing Date: 04/22/04	:	
Attorney Docket No.: 84,633	:	
	:	
Title: NON-KINKING OIL-FILLED	:	
ACOUSTIC SENSOR STAVE	:	Confirm. No.: 7325

Faxed herewith please find the following papers being formally filed by Applicant:

- **Response to Restriction Requirement3 pages**
- **Preliminary Amendment11 pages**

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ACOUSTIC SENSOR STAVE : Confirm. No.: 7325

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This Response to Restriction Requirement and the accompanying Preliminary Amendment are responsive to the Office action mail-dated 21 April 2006.

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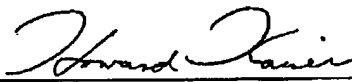
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on Thursday, May 18, 2006.

Typed or printed name of person signing this certificate

Howard Kaiser

Signature



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Although Applicant believes that no fee is due in association with Applicant's response to the 04/21/06 Office action, the Office is respectfully requested to charge any fees as may be required to Deposit Account No. 50-0958.

The Office action requires restriction to one of two groups of claims, viz., Group "I" and Group "II." According to the Office action, Group "I" is designated for claims 1-12 and is "drawn to a vertical, elongated hose structure, classified in class 138, subclass 118"; Group "II" is designated for claims 13-22 and is "drawn to an acoustic sensor apparatus, classified in class 367, subclass 154."

As an aside, Applicant respectfully notes that the structure of Group "I" can be vertical or non-vertical.

In response to the restriction requirement, Applicant respectfully elects the claims of Group "II" (claims 13-22), without traverse.

Applicant's "Preliminary Amendment," respectfully filed herewith, cancels claims 1-12 (i.e., the claims of Group "I"), amends claims 14 and 20, and adds claims 23-30.

Applicant's cancellation of claims 1-12 at this time is strictly a money-saving expediency; by canceling claims 1-12, Applicant creates "fee room" to add claims 23-30. Applicant respectfully reserves the right to pursue patent protection of claims 1-12 and like claims by way of one or more future (e.g.,

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divisional) patent applications.

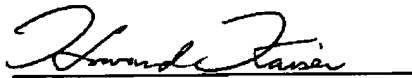
Applicant respectfully urges that claims 23-34 are drawn to an acoustic sensor apparatus similarly as claims 13-22 are drawn to an acoustic sensor apparatus. In other words, Applicant believes that not only claims 13-22 but also claims 23-34 can reasonably be deemed to "belong" to Group "II," classifiable in the same class/subclass or in a sufficiently similar class/subclass to permit contemporaneous examination.

Accordingly, the Group "II" designation is believed by Applicant to apply not only to original claims 13-22 but also to new claims 23-34. That is, Applicant believes it reasonable to consider Group "II" as encompassing claims 13-34.

In view of the foregoing election and the associated claim amendments, Applicant respectfully requests an action on the merits as to claims 13-34.

If any questions remain, the Examiner should please not hesitate to contact the undersigned at tel. no. (301) 227-1834.

Respectfully submitted,


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ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANT

05/18/06
date

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17 May 2006

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